

## **DARIEN REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING**

### **Rules Committee**

Minutes of a Regular Meeting Held January 3, 2005

The entire Committee (13 members) attended the meeting.

Mrs. Armour called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. in Room 213 of the Darien Town Hall. Charles Andrew, Chair of the RTM's Public Works Committee, also attended the meeting.

Mrs. Armour asked the Committee to accept the minutes of the Committee's meeting of December 13, 2004, including the notation added by Mrs. Rajzewski regarding Mr. Alliegro's appointment to RTM District 3 and the Parks & Recreation Committee. Mrs. Armour added that she will be meeting with Messrs. Morton and Hovell regarding the drafting of a charge for an ad hoc committee that will consider best practices in Town Hall finance functions. The Committee then accepted the 12/13/04 minutes without objection.

Next, the Committee turned to items that should be presented to the RTM during its upcoming meetings.

**Gift for Improvements to McGuane Field:** The Committee was advised that the RTM's Park & Recreation Committee will be considering this matter at a meeting scheduled for January 10, 2005. Hence, this matter will be on the agenda for the RTM's 1/24/05 meeting.

**New Ordinances re: Public Pools and Barber/Cosmetology Shops:** This matter will be on the agenda for the RTM's 1/24/05 meeting.

**Amendment to Boat Club Lease:** The Committee was advised that the RTM's Park & Recreation Committee will re-consider this matter at a meeting scheduled for January 10, 2005, but that the Boat Club may decide to withdraw its request to amend the lease. Barring that event, this matter will be on the agenda for the RTM's 1/24/05 meeting.

**Tokeneke School:** Mrs. Armour confirmed that the RTM will hold a special meeting on February 28, 2005 to consider this matter. Mr. Warren noted that , given the exquisite timing requirements of the state financing application process, the Tokeneke School Building Committee should be asked to affirm that there is no need to have the RTM act earlier than 2/28/05.

**Code Changes re: Purchasing Practices and Pension Plans:** Mr. Warren reported that neither of these matters will be ready for the RTM's 1/24/05 meeting, but that the proposed Code changes re: purchasing practices will likely be ready for the RTM's 2/28/05 meeting. The proposed changes re: pension plans may take longer to coordinate.

**Proposed Ordinance re: Recreational Fishing:** Mrs. Armour reported that the Board of Selectmen has not completed its consideration of this matter.

Hence, it is unlikely to be presented to the RTM in the near term. The Committee acknowledged that it added the TGS&A Committee to this matter at its 12/13/04 meeting.

The Committee then turned to other business.

Mrs. Armour announced that the Commission on Aging has asked the Board of Finance to raise the qualified assessed value of property for which seniors can receive tax relief or tax deferral from \$800,000 to \$950,000. After the Board of Finance acts upon this matter, the RTM will be asked to consider and act upon it.

Mrs. Armour then reported that the Parks & Recreation Commission has requested what appear to be administrative wording changes to the Code of Ordinances. Mr. Warren volunteered to investigate whether the requested changes require a public hearing.

Mrs. Armour noted that the sewer project which she mentioned at the Committee's 12/13/04 meeting remains clouded in mystery. It is presently unknown whether current bonding equals the projected cost of the project (which appears to be ballooning beyond the \$350,000 originally reported), nor whether the RTM will need to consider the project.

Mrs. Armour and Mr. Morton reiterated that they will be meeting with Mr. Hovell to draft a charge for an ad hoc committee that will consider best practices in Town Hall finance functions, and present such draft to the Board of Finance. Presuming that the Board acts upon their draft before the RTM's 1/24/05 meeting, the Board could report the matter at the 1/24/05 meeting. Mr. Warren noted that if the Board of Finance does nothing, the RTM should move the matter itself at the 2/28/05 meeting.

Then, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted to list the following matters on the RTM's 1/24/05 meeting agenda:

**Gift for Improvements to McGuane Field**

**New Ordinances re: Public Pools and Barber/Cosmetology Shops**

**Amendment to Boat Club Lease –and-**

**Ad hoc Committee Charge re: Best Practices in Town Hall Finance Functions.**

At the 1/24/05 meeting, Mrs. Armour also intends to remind RTM members that they should attend the Board of Selectmen Budget Meetings that relate to the matters within the jurisdiction of the standing committees to which they belong. Mrs. Smith has published the schedule of the meetings from

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1/25/05 forward. A copy is attached. It was noted that the Education Budget will be considered on 1/11/05.

Then, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Riccardo, Clerk